THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Cochin Port Trust (CoPT) has signed a Licence Agreement with India Gateway Terminal Private Limited, a subsidiary of Dubai Ports International, Dubai, UAE on 31.1.2005 for operation and management of Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) and development and operation of International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The Agreement envisages time-bound implementation of ICTT project. The BOT operator will initially take over the existing RGCT for further development and operation till the ICTT becomes operational. The Government will take necessary steps to ensure the provision of common user infrastructure facilities, namely, rail and road connectivity and adequate depth in the navigational channels for the terminal. Investment in the project to be developed in phases by the BOT operator is estimated to be Rs. 2118 crores. Investment by the Government/Port Trust for providing the common user infrastructure facilities is estimated to be Rs. 881 crores. On completion of the project, the terminal will have facilities to handle 3 million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) of container traffic. Vessels upto a size of 8000 TEUs can be handled in the Terminal.

National Highways in Nagaland

1810. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

. (a) whether Government are contemplating to take over any roads under National Highways in Nagaland;

(b) if so, the roads which are proposed to be taken over under National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In February 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms of State Roads as National Highways. Due to financial and other constraints, at

present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Corridor Management Policy

†1811. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have decided to emphasize on corridor management by making corridor management policy instead of constructing National Highways;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) the proposed outlines of the new corridor management policy; and

(d) by when the target of its implementation after final announcement of such policy would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No Sir. NHAI lays equal emphasis on management of completed sections of highways (Corridor Management) and construction of highways.

(c) and (d) The maintenance of completed sections of the National highways is being carried out by NHAI through short term improvement and road maintenance contracts and long term performance based maintenance contracts. The scope of work includes road maintenance, road property management, incident management, engineering improvement of toll-fee collection, traffic management, facility management, planning of operation and maintenance (O&M) center, training and road safety provisions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.